

U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRYSTAL CITY POLICE OFFICER ARRESTED THIS MORNING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that **Jimmy Aguilar**, a Crystal City Police Officer, was arrested this morning at the Crystal City Police Department. He was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury in Del Rio, Texas, on four counts of federal civil rights violations and related charges. His initial appearance was this morning at 9:30 a.m. where U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Green ordered him detained without bond.

"The vast majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties in a professional manner, risking their lives for the safety of the community. Unfortunately, on occasion an officer over steps the bounds of professional conduct, violating the rights of citizens. This office will aggressively investigate and prosecute law enforcement officials who use unnecessary and excessive force", stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

According to the indictment, on August 7, 2001, while acting under color of law, the defendant, Jimmy Aguilar deprived Victor Hugo Jimenez of his civil rights as protected by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. While Victor Hugo Jimenez was restrained and in handcuffs, the defendant severely beat and then jammed the barrel of a firearm into Jimenez' mouth which resulted in bodily injury.

The indictment further alleges on October 13, 2003, the defendant attempted to corruptly persuade a Zavala County Sheriff's Deputy to withhold truthful testimony from a federal grand jury concerning the August 7, 2001, circumstances surrounding the beating sustained by Victor Hugo Jimenez while in police custody.

This case is being investigated by the Del Rio Resident Agency Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Baumann is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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